

**From:** {Information redacted}

**Sent:** Friday, November 16, 2018 5:00 PM

**To:** Correspondence mail ; Correspondence mail - HB ; {Information redacted} (OFM - Special Adviser) {Information redacted}

**Cc:** {Information redacted}

**Subject:** RSPB initial reaction to the draft Brexit deal.

Dear {Information redacted} Hannah and {Information redacted},

We wanted to let you know of the RSPB's initial reaction to the draft Brexit deal and draw your attention to the section of the backstop on environmental protection in the backstop (which is also referred to in the outline political declaration as providing the foundation of the negotiation on the future relationship).

Article 2 draws quite a wide scope of environmental issues and Article 3 sets out the domestic monitoring and enforcement that will be required in the four countries of the UK (and Article 3 would be subject to the dispute resolution mechanism).

Recognising that it is unclear whether this deal will be agreed, our colleagues in England, will be following up with the UK Government and Defra in the next week to enquire how the text of this Agreement is impacting on their proposals for a Westminster Environment Bill which are due to be published shortly. Similarly we will be talking to Welsh Government officials about what this means for us in Wales regarding gaps in our current legislative framework with respect to access to environmental justice, filling the gaps regarding EU environmental principles and the need to bring forward binding targets for the recovery of nature.

Best wishes,

{Information redacted}

Senedd Advocate

**{Information redacted} Head of Policy & Advocacy for RSPB Cymru said:**

"Today's deal signals promising commitments to maintain environmental standards, but unless these are given legal force in any agreement on the future EU-UK relationship across the four countries, we could still see a disastrous weakening of protections for wildlife.

"A vital part of fulfilling the UK's commitments must now be to pass domestic laws in the four countries guaranteeing access to environmental justice and applying key principles such as the polluter pays and precautionary principle. If the four Governments of the UK are to fulfil their promises of delivering a better environment after Brexit it will also need to bring forward binding targets for the recovery of nature."